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SPE

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 6,776,015)
)
Issued: August 17, 2004)
)
Serial No. 09/904,287)
)
Filed: July 12, 2001)
)
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY)
)
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY)
MACHINE DRUM)
)
Examiner: F. Stinson)
)
Art Unit: 1746)
)
Confirmation No.: 2028)
)
Attorney Docket No.:)
1170/39480/101)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,
VA 22313-1450 on NOVEMBER 6, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Maria E. Kitz

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Rep.

Maria E. Kitz
Signature

11/6/06
Date

REQUEST TO CORRECT A CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Mail Stop: Corrections
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Certificate
NOV 14 2006
of Correction

In reviewing the Certificate of Correction issued on October 24, 2006 for the
above-identified patent, Applicant noticed that the following claim was **not included** on said
Certificate of Correction:

- 1) Allowed claim number **27** on the Amendment filed with the Request for
Continued Examination (RCE) filed on February 20, 2004. See Exhibit A.

- 2) A copy of the Certificate of Correction issued on October 24, 2006.
See Exhibit B.
- 3) A request for a Certificate of Correction for the omitted claim number
27. See Exhibit C.

It is respectfully requested that a **corrected Certificate of Correction** be issued, accepted and placed in the file of the above-noted patent.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 20-1495.

Should there be any questions regarding this Communication, please contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 6, 2006

By



Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr. Reg. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 West Adams Street
Suite 3600
Chicago, Illinois 60603

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Serial No.: 09/904,287)
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY)
Filed: July 12, 2001)
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY)
MACHINE DRUM)
Examiner: F. STINSON)
Art Unit: 1746)
Attorney Docket No.:)
1171/39480/101)

EV371845729US

Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail"	
Express Mailing No.:	EV371845729US
Date of Deposit:	February 20, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above addressed to The Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450.	
Tiffany E. Sexton	

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

BOX RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other

COPY

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months.
- b. ☐ Other PETITION FOR MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

3. Fees

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 20-1495.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee
- iii. ☒ Fee for additional claims
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 770 is enclosed for the RCE Filing Fee (\$750).
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr. Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 25,156

Signature  Date February 20, 2004

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI, BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/904,287)
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY)
Filed: July 12, 2001)
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY)
MACHINE DRUM)
Examiner: F. STINSON)
Art Unit: 1746)
Attorney Docket No.:)
1171/39480/101)

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Date of Deposit: February 20, 2004

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Tiffany E. Sexton
Tiffany E. Sexton

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Notice of Allowance dated November 20, 2003 and in accordance with the Request for Continued Examination submitted concurrently herewith, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation;

wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

2. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

3. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 2 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

4. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 4 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

7. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

8. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

9. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A laundry machine drum having~~ In a laundry machine having a drum with a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of openings therethrough, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the improvement comprising: at least one of said openings opening having a form such that the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation opening than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation opening, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration.

18. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 17 wherein said form of said openings is such that material surrounding said opening does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

19. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 18 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

20. (New) A laundry machine having a drum as claimed in claim 17 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

21. (New) In a laundry machine having a drum for holding a laundry load, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, the improvement comprising each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation.

22. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum perforation is such that during said centrifugal dehydration said fabric spans said perforation but does not extrude through said perforation.

23. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforation does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

24. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 23 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

25. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 24 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

26. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

27. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

28. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 26 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

29. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 28 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

30. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

31. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

REMARKS

Applicants are concurrently filing this Amendment with an Information Disclosure Statement and a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, the Issue Fee has not been paid in response to the Notice of Allowance.

Claims 1-9 and 17-31 are pending. Claims 18-31 are newly-presented.

Reconsideration of claims 1-9 in view of the amendments and the prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement is requested. Consideration of claims 17-31 in view of the amendments to claim 17 and the prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement is requested. Applicant submits that claims 17-31 should be examined with claims 1-9.

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on claims 10-16 which were canceled in response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2003.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb. 20, 2004

By: Raford A. Blackstone, Jr.
Raford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 W. Adams Street
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Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 704-1890

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,776,015 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/904287
DATED : August 17, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

Page 1 of 5

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page,

Item [56], **References Cited**, U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, insert the following:

-- 1,097,510 * 05/1914 Bartholomew

2,264,202 04/40 Forney --.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, insert the following:

-- WO 9809303 10/89

DE 278603 09/14

EP 245721 11/87

DE 1958076 05/71 --.

COPY

Column 1,

Line 36, "He" should be -- the --.

Line 62, "tie" should be -- the --.

Column 3, line 67 through Column 4, line 1,

"punch tool." should be -- punch tool 11 --.

Column 4, line 62 through Column 6, line 28,

Delete claims 1-10 and substitute the following claims 1-22:

1. A laundry machine drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, each of one or more of said perforations including:
a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation;

wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

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Page 2 of 5

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 4, line 62 through Column 6, line 28 (cont'd),

2. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.
3. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 2 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.
4. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.
5. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 4 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.
6. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 5 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.
7. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.
8. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

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PATENT NO. : 6,776,015 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/904287
DATED : August 17, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

Page 3 of 5

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 4, line 62 through Column 6, line 28 (cont'd),

9. In a laundry machine having a drum with a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of openings therethrough, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the improvement comprising: at least one of said opening having a form such that the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said opening than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said opening, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration.
10. The improvement as claimed in claim 9 wherein said form of said openings is such that material surrounding said opening does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.
11. The improvement as claimed in claim 10 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.
12. A laundry machine having a drum as claimed in claim 9 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.
13. In a laundry machine having a drum for holding a laundry load, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, the improvement comprising each of one or more of said perforations including:

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PATENT NO. : 6,776,015 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/904287
DATED : August 17, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

Page 4 of 5

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 4, line 62 through Column 6, line 28 (cont'd),

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation.

14. The improvement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said drum perforation is such that during said centrifugal dehydration said fabric spans said perforation but does not extrude through said perforation.

15. The improvement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said perforation does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

16. The improvement as claimed in claim 15 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

17. The improvement as claimed in claim 16 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

18. The improvement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

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DATED : August 17, 2004
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Page 5 of 5

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 4, line 62 through Column 6, line 28 (cont'd),

19. The improvement as claimed in claim ¹⁸wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.
20. The improvement as claimed in claim ¹⁹wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.
21. The improvement as claimed in claim ²⁰ wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.
22. The improvement as claimed in claim ²⁰ wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

This certificate supersedes Certificates of Correction issued December 7, 2004 and June 6, 2006

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-fourth Day of October, 2006



JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 6,776,015 B2

APPLICATION NO.: 09/904287

ISSUE DATE : August 17, 2004

INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Please add the following claim to the Certificate of Correction issued on October 24, 2006.

- 27. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish. --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Trexler, Bushnell, Giangiorgi, Blackstone & Marr, Ltd.
105 West Adams Street 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 6,776,015 B2
APPLICATION NO.: 09/904287
ISSUE DATE : August 17, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Please add the following claim to the Certificate of Correction issued on October 24, 2006.

-- 27. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish. --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Trexler, Bushnell, Giangiorgi, Blackstone & Marr, Ltd.
105 West Adams Street 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.